(d) No funds have been sought by the Board under this scheme.

Maritime security challenges for India

637. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether maritime security challenges including anti piracy operations in Indian ocean region is a matter to be taken with priority;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to augment coastal maritime security during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of various initiatives for States having substantial marine borders to meet marine security challenges;

(d) whether States with maritime boundaries were provided the same status and amenities as that of States with international land borders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) Government has accorded top priority to coastal security and for this an integrated approach has been put in place. The intelligence-sharing mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of joint operation centres and multi agency coordination mechanism. Surface and air surveillance has been enhanced by Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships and aircraft all along the coast and in all offshore development areas.

Further, Joint and operational exercises are taking place between Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police and Customs in order to check the effectiveness of the new systems.

Central Government is funding coastal States/Union Territories through coastal security scheme for operationalisation of Coastal Police stations, patrol boats etc. for coastal security. Indian Coast Guard has also trained 1515 state police personnel.

Government's offer of dialogue to Maoists

638. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently made a surprise offer to Maoists to come and have dialogue on their issues;

(b) if so, the response received by Government on such surprise offer to Maoists;

(c) whether the anti naxalite policy of Government has been totally changed or withdrawn; and

(d) if so, the latest stand of Government in view of spurt in violence by Maoists in various parts of the country?